

many more whites, still undergoing ~~this trial~~ before this committee, who are cautious but rigid, fully under the impression, that although the testimony by which these fellows are convicted, would not be sufficient, in a legal court, that they are not the less guilty, & they are determined that they shall not be screened by 'the glorious uncertainty' of the law."

As to Dean's character, I have made but little inquiry, & purpose to inquire further when I return to Ashford today. I learn however, that he was considered a quiet, peaceable young man, though not of a spotless reputation. He was suspected of nothing more, of having had improper intercourse with a female, while at home, & it was thought by some that he was verging toward intemperance. From the account his parents gave me, I should infer that he was of a more than usually kind & benevolent disposition by nature - ever ready to relieve distress - to assist those in trouble & to give time & money with perfect readiness for such purposes. He used also - as they say - to contribute liberally to the support of the gospel. I was permitted to read a letter from a young man in Middletown, which says, "one paper" (which the writer had read,) "giving an account of those that were hanging speaking of Albe Dean, it said he was a well disposed man & a very peaceable good citizen." Perhaps it would be well enough to find out if possible, what paper that was. The letter last quoted from, was written by Elijah Phillips of Middletown, who also mentions that a Shumway, whose father lives in Middletown, (he does not give the Christian name) resides in Mississippi, at or near Livingston, & knew Dean. He was at his father's in Middletown last fall summer, soon after the execution. Phillips, I believe did not see him, as his stay was very short, but calling on his father for that purpose, he had some conversation about Dean, & Shumway the elder, said his son told him Dean was a well disposed & good citizen. So Dean's sister informed me. She was at Phillips' soon after Shumway's visit. Now perhaps these circumstances may afford a clue to evidence respecting the character Dean sustained in Mississippi. The young man who worked in Farmington, (of whom mention was made by some one, the day I left,) was a brother of Albe.

Before Dean went south, he lived some time (several yrs I think) with a Mr. Hill, a carpenter in Hartford, of whom also he learned his trade. This was about 12 years ago. Previous to that time - say 15 or 16 yrs ago he lived at a pistol factory in Middletown, then carried on by a Col North, & now by a son of Col N. About 11 yrs ago he taught school in E. Hartford, in a district where several families of Hills live, & was hired there by a Mr. Hill. In Alabama he was known to Pierpont Phillips formerly of Middletown, who now resides in Montgomery, Ala. I mistake

an hour miles further, to the house of a friend in W. Woodstock, where I remained through that & the next night. Friday eve, I lectured in W. W. Meeting house, to a handful of people, & was somewhat annoyed by a dozen or fifteen fellows who occupied the entry & gallery, stamping, slamming doors, whistling & talking aloud, & making abundance of efforts to interrupt me. I went on however without heeding them, or seeming conscious of their presence, except that in assigning reasons for preaching Abolition at the north, I gave as one, that public opinion was so far from right that the doctrine could not be preached without encountering opposition of such a kind, & manifested in such a way as disgraces a civilized community. After concluding my discourse, I mentioned that I should be there again as soon as I could make my arrangements to be. I thought I might as well give them to understand that I was not altogether silenced. Saturday I returned to Eastford & called on Skinner to find out whereabouts Deam lives, & then went to his house - to use an old saying - "as the girl went to be married, afoot & alone." Deam gave me a hospitable reception, & told me all he knew about the murder of his son. I copied a letter which had been received (in answer to inquiries written on,) from the Postmaster of Livingston, Mississippi, where Albe was executed. The substance of the information I obtained was this. About 10 years ago, Albe (not Abbe) Deam, then 23 yrs old, went as a pedlar to N. Carolina, where he remained several years. Thence he went to Alabama, still in the same business, & there his head quarters seem to have been at Montgomery, in the county of the same name. He assisted ^{while there} in building the court house in that town - having learned the carpenter's trade before leaving Conn. From Alabama he removed in June 1834, to Livingston, Mi, but whether he still continued his occupation of a pedlar, or whether he permanently settled at Livingston, his father does not know. When the alarm of an insurrection was raised, he was arrested, tried by a committee of 13, (whose names I have,) & sentenced to death. The sentence was pronounced, July 7th, & executed the next day. He died, protesting his innocence. The letter of the P. M. merely confirms the identity of the person executed, with the Albe Deam of Ashford, Ct., & promises a copy of the whole proceedings ("now in press" - Jan 17th - "soon to come out") when the document shall be published. That document has never been received. The account published in the Journal of Commerce, of Aug. 8th 1835 is copied from the Charleston (S. C.) Courier, where it appeared in the form of a letter from "Tyger Bayou, Madison County, Mi," evidently written by one who sympathized with the murdering committee. It very briefly mentions the execution of Deam, & near the conclusion says "There are

C. C. Burleigh.

Hampton, March 14th '35.

[Albe Dean's Case]

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Brother Phelps, I arrived in Hartford about 7 o'clock of the afternoon that I left you, & found on inquiry that no stage would leave for Eastford the next day, but that one would go through Ashford, & ~~and~~ engaged a seat in that. A little before three I was called up, & in about half an hour we were making our way slowly through the mud, crammed together as closely as ever Franklin & Sumfield stowed a cargo on board the Tribune. Nine men of very respectable dimensions, with a full complement of clunks, surtouts &c, packed into a coach of less than the usual capacity, you will readily imagine, left very little room for "expansion" or "development." Then there were two beside the driver, (& some part of the way, three,) on the outside. After riding about 30 miles - relieved once or twice by short stops at the taverns - I obtained my final deliverance from "the horrors of the middle passage" by leaving the stage at Richards in Westford, six miles from Skinner's where you directed me to go. We were just about entering on an Abolition discussion, (introduced by some remarks from one poorly gentleman, seconded by several others, about Tappan's mild scheme of equalizing the whites & blacks,) when the stage reached Richards, & prevented my giving utterance to a full volley of fanaticism. I had only thrown in a few incendiary sentiments, to see how they would mingle with the cool wisdom of my companions' sage remarks, but enough, it seemed, to lead them to look on me as at least bearing some affinity to the monsters who are prowling about to disturb the peace of society, excite the slaves to insurrection & the free blacks to insolent behavior toward their superiors. Of those who took part in the discussion, all were against me, but I thought there were some whose looks encouraged me to stand my ground. As usual, what was said against me, served more to expose the ignorance & bitter prejudices of the speakers, than to throw any light upon the subject.

From Richards I walked to Skinner's & finding him rather cool & distant, & not able to communicate much information about Dean, & conjecturing from his appearance that he would not be very likely to leave his own business for the purpose of accompanying me to Dean's - three miles off - (for he did not so much as invite me into his house,) I walked